

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of transmitting information from a first device to a second
2 device, comprising:
3 receiving a user input at the first device;
4 determining a class to which the user input belongs;
5 identifying one of a plurality of sets of information which is associated with
6 the class;
7 looking up at least one datum in the identified set of information; and
8 transmitting the datum.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information is control information, and
2 the datum is a control code.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining if a programmed
2 association feature is active.
- 1 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein receiving the user input comprises
2 recognizing a button press.
- 1 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the first device is a remote control unit.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second device is selected from the
2 group consisting of televisions, set-top boxes, compact disc players, digital
3 versatile disk players, tuners, radio receivers, and satellite receivers.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second device is a remotely
2 controllable entertainment device.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein transmitting comprises generating an
2 infrared signal.

1 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information is control information; the
2 datum is a control code; receiving the user input comprises recognizing a button
3 press; the first device is a remote control unit; the second device is a remotely
4 controllable entertainment device; and further comprising determining if a
5 programmed association feature is active.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information is control information; the
2 datum is a control code; receiving the user input comprises recognizing a voice
3 command; the first device is a remote control unit; the second device is a
4 remotely controllable entertainment device; and further comprising determining if
5 a programmed association feature is active.

1 11. A method, comprising:

2 receiving a command to enter a programming mode;
3 receiving a first one of a first set of user inputs, the first set of user inputs
4 defining a plurality of devices; and
5 receiving a second one of a second set of user inputs, the second set of
6 user inputs defining commands.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein receiving the command to enter the
2 programming mode comprises processing signals which are received by a
3 universal remote control unit.

1 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein receiving the first one of the first set of
2 user inputs comprises detecting a button press on a universal remote control
3 unit, and further comprising classifying the first one of the first set of user inputs.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein detecting the button press comprises
2 generating at least one signal representative of the button which is pressed.

1 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein classifying comprises determining a
2 function class associated with the button which is pressed based, at least in part,
3 on the at least one signal representative of the button which is pressed.

1 16. A method, comprising:
2 receiving a user input;

3 generating a classification code based, at least in part, on the user input;
4 accessing a first control code based, at least in part, on the user input and
5 the classification code, the first control code stored in a memory; and
6 transmitting the first control code.

1 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein generating the classification code
2 comprises a table-lookup operation.

1 18. The method of Claim 16, wherein accessing the first control code
2 comprises generating a memory address and reading out the contents of a
3 memory location.

1 19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising accessing a second control
2 code based, at least in part, on the user input and the classification code.

1 20. The method of Claim 16, wherein transmitting the first control code
2 comprises converting the control code to infra-red signals.

1 21. The method of Claim 16, wherein receiving the user input comprises
2 detecting a button press and generating one or more electrical signals
3 representative of the button press.

1 22. The method of Claim 16, wherein receiving the user input comprises
2 detecting a button press and generating one or more electrical signals
3 representative of the button press; generating the classification code comprises a
4 table-lookup operation; accessing the first control code comprises generating a
5 memory address and reading out the contents of a memory location; and
6 transmitting the first control code comprises converting the control code to infra-
7 red signals.

1 23. The method of Claim 24, wherein accessing the first control code
2 comprises accessing data from a table based at least in part on the classification
3 code, wherein data in the table represents a programmed association between a
4 classification code and a target device.

1 25. A remote control unit, comprising:
2 a user input signal source;
3 a classifier coupled to the user input signal source;
4 an address generator coupled to receive input from the user input signal
5 source and the classifier;
6 a control code memory coupled to receive input from the address
7 generator; and
8 a transmitter coupled to receive input from the control code memory.

1 26. The remote control unit of Claim 25, wherein the user input signal source
2 comprises a keypad.

1 27. The remote control unit of Claim 25, wherein the classifier comprises a
2 means for generating a classification code based on one or more signals
3 received from the user input signal source.

1 28. The remote control unit of Claim 25, wherein the address generator
2 comprises a means for generating a memory address as a function of signals
3 received from the user input signal source and from a target lookup table.

1 29. The remote control unit of Claim 25, wherein the classifier comprises a
2 processor and software code which is stored within the remote control unit.

1 30. The remote control unit of Claim 25, wherein the user input signal source
2 comprises a voice recognition module.

1 31. An article of manufacture, comprising a machine readable medium upon
2 which is included instructions which when processed by the machine will cause
3 the machine to receive a user input; determine a class to which the user input
4 belongs; identify one of a plurality of sets of information which is associated with
5 the class; look up at least one datum in the identified set of information; and
6 transmit the datum.

1 32. The article of Claim 31, further including instructions which when
2 processed by the machine will cause the machine to determine if a programmed
3 association feature is active.

1 33. The article of Claim 32, wherein the information is control information, and
2 the datum is a control code .

1 34. The article of Claim 31, wherein transmitting the datum comprises
2 generating an infrared signal.

1 35. The article of Claim 31, wherein receiving the user input comprises
2 recognizing a voice command.